

Updated April 2013

Checklist for Collecting Necropsy Samples for Genetic Profiling at Trent University

<http://narightwhale.nrdpfc.ca/>

Storage:

Soft tissue samples (skin, muscle) should be stored in tubes containing DMSO saturated with salt. There should be enough DMSO in the tube to completely submerge and penetrate the sample. Samples should be cut into pea-sized pieces to maximize DMSO penetration. A piece of parafilm should be wrapped around the lid to prevent leakage.

Bone samples should be stored dry, in a clean, unused Ziploc bag and sealed tightly to prevent moisture and contaminants from entering.

Labelling of Tubes and Bags:

Tubes and bags containing necropsy samples should be clearly labelled and a piece of clear scotch tape should cover the label to ensure labels do not come off. The following information should be included on the tube:

- Necropsy field code (ex. MJM9604)
- Tissue type (skin, muscle, bone, etc)
- Necropsy sample number (when multiple samples are collected; muscle 1/2, skin 1/10)
- A unique barcode (your own or one from Trent University)
- Collection date (to be written as 01-Jan-2013)
- Location
- Where the sample is being sent (eg. Trent)

*All information should also be included verbatim in the online sample submission information form (<http://whales.wildlifegenomictracker.com/samples/new>) for **each** sample sent, as well as any additional information required for sample submission found on that form.

When skin is present:

- Collect 10 pieces of skin (if possible) and store them in a separate tube (see below)
 - Should be from various locations of the body (if possible), where few cyamids are present
 - Avoid areas where skin lesions are present to minimize bacterial contamination (if possible)
 - From cooler regions of the body (flipper, flukes, regions under water)
- Collect 2 pieces of muscle tissue from flipper or fluke region
- Store each sample in a separate vial (see "storage" section above)
 - For example, sample 1 is cut into 3 separate pea-sized pieces and stored in same vial. However, skin sample 1 is stored separately from the pea-sized pieces of skin sample 2
- Collect 2 whole digit bones from the flipper
 - Should remain intact (not cut or ground into smaller chunks) and undamaged to prevent bacterial contamination

When skin is not present:

- Collect 4 whole digit bones from the flipper
 - Should remain intact and undamaged to prevent bacterial contamination
- See "storage" section above for directions on storage method